



GF&R

VOLUNTEER

TIMES

CERT | Fire Corps | Community Assistance

Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda

Gilbert Fire & Rescue

Volunteer Coordinator

As we journey through life we come across individuals we may consider a hero. What defines a hero may be different to each one of us. It was an honor to host our annual Everyday Heroes Event this past year. This year marked the third year we provided this special event for foster families. The event introduces foster children to a fire station providing a safe, fun and educational environment for children to build relationships with first responders and volunteers.

I would like to thank all of the department volunteers (my goodness there are so many of you to name, over 40 of you came to help that day at the event) that shared their time to this heartfelt event. Their efforts help us serve lunch, provide educational booths ranging smoke detectors, CPR, water safety home safety, fire prevention safety trailer, and much more! Jean Sperke and Tom Degruski, thank you for providing lifesaving car seat information. Families also had the opportunity to participate in a component to the total wellness concept, with a dance exercise

segment conducted by Teresa Auva'a with Intesi-T. Also focusing on total wellness was Gilbert Resident, Ryan Combs who once again led an amazing heartfelt team in raising funds for approximately 50 new bicycles to be donated to the event. The bicycles were raffled at the bike safety table and was a great opportunity for so many children to receive their very own bicycle...for many it was their first bike! The sounds of delight, smiles and giggles as some of the children won bicycles was memorable.

Much appreciation to Zellas for assuring the pizza lunch being served was delivered on time, warm and quite yummy! Children and fire crews love pizza! Speaking of fire crews, thank you to all the crews who helped make this event a success, from building bicycles, to cleaning the station to displaying fire engines and ladders...truly you are appreciated! David Zehring and Spring provided a demonstration that raised awareness to many of the families, and of course Spring was magnificent posing for so many pictures!

Another special component to the event the past two years has been the books! This year each child attending received 2 tickets for new books. They could visit the book area and select two new books for themselves. Each one of these books had a handwritten message from a Gilbert Fire & Rescue volunteer or fire personnel. Providing the books provides us the opportunity to change lives one book at a time. Throughout the year I will be collecting new books from ages birth to 18 years of age at Fire Administration. If you would like to donate a new book anytime throughout the year for this event, that would be greatly appreciated!

A foster parent attending the event shared "This is amazing! My 11 year old wants to become a firefighter. She is thrilled with this opportunity. The bike we won is an answer to prayers". And as one young boy attending the event shared his favorite part to be " Meeting everyone and to spend time with all the people".

Thank you again to everyone for making a difference in the lives of children through this event and I am excited with preparations already underway for our 2017 event!

EVERYDAY HEROES 2016



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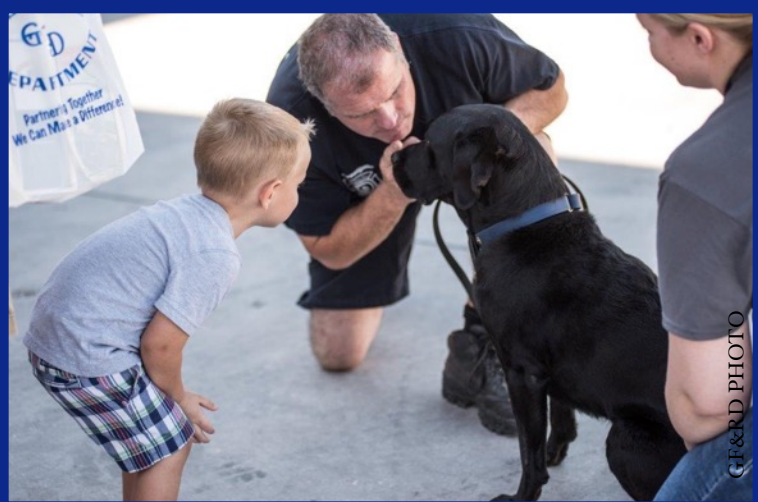
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Children had the opportunity during Everyday Heroes to visit the Book Booth and pick a new book. All books had a personalized inscription from a Gilbert Fire & Rescue Volunteer or Personnel. 160 new books were given out to children that day.



<http://pineblufflibrary.org/sites/main/site/files/pictures/kids-reading-in-library.jpg>

MEET THE COMMUNITY DIVISION ADMIN ASSISTANTS



My name is **Christy Pettit** and I've been with Gilbert Fire for 10 years. I'm very excited to be a part of the Community family and to get to know more about the volunteer program and all the other programs we have set up for the citizens of the Town of Gilbert. It's exciting to see what's going on and where things are heading. I have been married to my best friend for 12 years and between us we have 3 awesome kids in college.

I've met a many of you over the years but still see lots of new faces all the time. Stop by the first cube next to the front door and say hello.

My name is **Meghan Carpenter** and I am excited and honored to work with the Gilbert Fire and Rescue team. I have previous experience in the private and non-profit industries specializing in administration and accounting. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the dedicated team of volunteers and employees with the Fire and Rescue Department. Prior to moving to Arizona, my husband and I lived in San Jose, CA for over 15 years. We now keep busy trying to keep up with our 16 month old daughter and two dogs. We enjoy going to the park and napping whenever possible.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Written by Judy Slack



Michael Bryant has lived in Gilbert for 14 years, moving here from Mesa. He currently teaches and provides program direction in an Industrial Technology area at Gateway Campus in Phoenix.

As with many of our volunteers, his past life involved public service. When he lived in Los Angeles, as a Fire Explorer, he went through fire academy to enable him to take the 4th seat on an engine (mostly medical and catching the hydrant stuff). While attending college in Oklahoma, he lived in a campus fire station with a motley crew, exchanging room and board for fire and medical services with a paid department. After college he moved to the Houston area and volunteered as a fire fighter in a department stacked with industrial fire fighters, paramedics, safety professionals and emergency response experts. He says, "It was a very humbling experience."

When not working or volunteering, he spends time with his family - wife, kids (ages 3 & 7) and two dogs. He's also recently tackled a big project -- learning to swim well. This is a big thing for him because he's more than one near

drowning experience over the course of his life.

His current hobby is seeking out treasures at places like Goodwill and doing Zumba. ("Don't judge me," he says with a laugh.)



GF&R VOLUNTEER TIMES



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE BRIEFING

Written by Curt Ward

My COM251 partner, Roger Molieri, and I received an unusual call for smoke detectors. The call came in by text from a lady, making sure to note that she was Deaf and could not respond to a phone call. We texted back a proposed time to stop during our shift and received an almost immediate reply, so we headed over to see what needed to be done. I rang the doorbell and waited for someone to respond. The husband answered the door with paper and pen in hand. He, too, was Deaf. He could tell from our uniforms why we were there. I suppose the ladder and detector bag didn't hurt either. He ushered us in to the nearest detector in the hallway outside the kitchen. I set up the ladder and pushed the test button. The alarm went off and the husband, his wife and teenage daughter all looked at me with expressions indicating they could not tell if it had gone off. I wrote that it had gone off and was working properly. I wrote "Why do you need to have smoke detectors you cannot hear?" The husband wrote that they were moving and had listed the home for sale. Their realtor had indicated to them that an inspector would be coming and that the detectors needed to be in working order. I wrote that we understood and now would go throughout the house to make sure all detectors were working and were properly wired together.

One of the upstairs detectors was up very high and had no battery in it. As Roger set up the ladder to address that issue, I wrote to the customers that I was glad I had a young partner who could easily go up and down ladders in situations like that. They all laughed and nodded to each other; I think they were also glad I was not the one doing the high ladder work.

Everything was tested and in good working order. The customers were very pleased and expressed their gratitude for our program. Before leaving the home, we asked them to be certain to have flashing light detectors placed in their new home. They wrote that they would do so. I placed my hands together in the prayer symbol and nodded my head, asking them to promise they would do so. They nodded back. We had a deal.

I think we made a difference in the lives of people whose lives we can't really fully appreciate. Isn't that why we do this?

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW GF&RD VOLUNTEERS:

Guna Bellampali

Melanie Hatch

Joe Nuttall

Larry Anderson

Derek Hanson

Tena Hudson

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 7th	CERT: Disaster Preparedness and Terrorism	6-9pm	Amphitheater	
Feb 9th	Credential Renewal	11am-2pm	Room 6	
Feb 18th	Collision Avoidance	8:30am-11:30am	Skills Center	
Feb 18th	Credential Renewal	9am-12pm	Room 6	
Feb 18th	Standard Operating Procedures	1-4pm	Room 6	COM251
Feb 18th	Occupant Services	4-5pm	Room 6	COM251
Feb 21st	CERT: Fire Safety	6-9pm	Amphitheater	
Feb 23rd	Radio Communications	6-8:30p	Room 6	COM251
Feb 25th	Save the Date! Event of the Year!			
Feb 28th	CERT: Medical Operations 1	6-9pm	Amphitheater	
March 4th	Train the Trainer: First Aid	9am-1pm	Room 3	
March 4th	Train the Trainer: CCC CPR	2-4pm	Room 3	
March 7th	CERT: Medical Operations 2	6-9pm	Amphitheater	
March 11th	Animal Response	9am-4pm	Amphitheater	

GF&R Volunteer Times is a publication of the Gilbert Fire & Rescue Department, Gilbert, AZ. Megan Neibauer, ed.